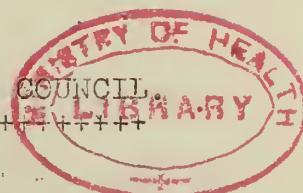


BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1939.

To the Chairman and members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Eighth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your district.

It will be found to be materially curtailed in comparison with those of previous years, being limited in the main to a record of important alterations, improvements or developments which have taken place.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (a) James S. Mather, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.  
 (b) James J. Perkins, A.R.S.L., Sanitary Inspector.  
 Both are part-time officers.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	4,591.
mid 1939.	5,760.
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1939)	
according to Rate Books.	1,576.
Rateable Value.	£22,106.
Sum represented by Penny Rate.	£88.

The social conditions and industries locally remain unchanged. Unemployment is however greatly decreasing as men of military age are absorbed into the army, whilst many others are finding regular work at the several munitions works developing in reasonable proximity to the district.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.
<u>Live Births</u> - Legitimate	97	45	52
Illegitimate	3	2	1
	<u>100</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>53</u>

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population of the district 17.3.

Other live Birth statistics, introduced for the purpose of comparison with above:-

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births in district during 1938	81	43	38
Live Birth Rate for 1938	14.1		per 1000.
Average Rate for the last 5 years (1934-1938)	14.1		per 1000.
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.0		per 1000.
during 1939			

	Total	M.	F.
<u>Still Births.</u>	5	3	2.

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.....47  
 Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births...  
 for England and Wales in 1939.....38

### Deaths.

Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 11.8

Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population.....11.9

Other Statistics for comparison:-

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths during 1938.....	57.	26.	31.
Death Rate for district in 1938.....	9.9 per 1000		
Mean Death Rate for district during five years 1934-1938.....	11.1 per 1000		
Death Rate for England and Wales in 1939.....	12.1 per 1000		
The Death Rates for the individual Wards, calculated on the Census figures of population, are:-			
Billinge Chapel End			
Billinge Higher End			
Winstanley			

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000	Total (live & still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
Other Puerperal Causes	1	9.52	
Total	1	9.52.	

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live births.....60  
Legitimate Infants per 1000 live births.....61  
Illegitimate Infants per 100 live illegitimate births...Nil  
Other Statistics for comparison:-  
Number of deaths of infants per 1000 live births in district in 1938.....86  
Mean number of infantile deaths in district per 1000 live births for five years (1934-38).....69  
Infant mortality per 1000 live births for England and Wales in 1939.....50

The distribution of the infantile deaths in the district was as follows:-

Billinge Chapel End	2
Billinge Higher End	3
Winstanley	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	Nil
Death from Diarrhoea (under two years).....	Nil

### SECTION B-

#### General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

There have been no developments or changes in the Health Services provided in the area.

##### (a) Laboratory Facilities:-

Pathological specimens submitted to Wigan Infirmary - 3 throat swabs.  
Bacteriological examinations submitted to Liverpool City Laboratories - 4 samples of water.

##### (b) Ambulance facilities are adequately arranged as follows:-

The Wigan Police Ambulance is used for all road casualties and a charge is made to the Council. Infectious cases are removed by the Ashton-in-Makerfield Ambulance. The Wigan P. A. C. Ambulance is used for removal of appropriate cases (including maternity cases) to Billinge Hospital. Ashton also have an Ambulance available for cases not coming within the above categories.

Nursing in the Home - Undertaken by the district nurse under the auspices of the local nursing association.



Clinics and Treatment Centres. Provided and controlled by the County Council. No Change.

(e) Hospitals. Public and Voluntary.

- (1) Wigan Infirmary.
- (11) Wigan Borough Public Assistance, Billinge.
- (111) Ashton-in-Makerfield Fever Hospital (for cases of Scarletina, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever only)
- (1V) Smallpox Hospital provided by Local Authority for cases occurring in the district. Has not been used for many years and is quite out of date.

### SECTION C.

#### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water. (1) At the end of eight years endeavour extending during the whole of my tenure of office we have at last the satisfaction of achieving the establishment of a water supply for the district which is both safe and sufficient. This reassuring fact is the more welcome at the present time when unexpected calls on our resources may be made at short notice and we may count ourselves indeed fortunate in having completed the task so opportunely. For instance the proposed extensions at Billinge Hospital with which we were recently acquainted could be accomodated with ease. Then again the calls on supply from the A. F. S. will be amply provided for without serious detriment in a dry spell. For these and other reasons, not the least of which may be counted the recent appreciation in costs and difficulty of proceeding with public works at present we can feel every satisfaction that the job is done. The results of the bacteriological examinations of the water during the year are appended. They reveal a high degree of purity being placed by the bacteriologist in Class I with the qualifying testimony highly satisfactory.

#### Bacteriological Results.

Date	Description	Bacteria per C C		B Coli per 100	Total Coliform	
		at 37c	at 22c		Organisms	per 100cc class
18 7.39	Whittle Shaft	10	290	0	0	1
18 7 39	-do-	0	12	0	0	1
	(after chlorination					
30.11.39	Cob Moor					
	Pumping Station	3	15	0	0	1
	-do-					
30.11.39	after					
	chlorination	0	0	0	0	1

Despite all this the whole of the water supplied for public consumption is chlorinated as an additional safeguard. The district may therefore be regarded as secure and safe from the point of view of its water supply.

11 Drainage and Sewerage:- There is no change to observe in this section.

Rivers and Streams. There is little risk of gross pollution of the streams in the district from effluent.

Closest Accommodation. The grant towards W.C. conversions still remains for a limited number per year, a number restricted within fixed financial provisions for the purpose. It is not proposed to discourage conversion nor yet to encourage to an extent detrimental to other more pressing needs of the moment. The

individual priority has been left to the officials to decide, and while some have been deferred to another year, all applications have eventually been granted. This system has worked satisfactorily so far, and is likely to continue at least during the period of the war.

#### Closet Accommodation at end of 1939.

Privy Middens:- No. of Middens	174
No. of Closets attached to these Middens	304
No. of Pail Closets	4
No. of Any Ashpits (excluding Middens)	Nil
No. of Movable Ashbins	694
No. of Houses on Water Carriage system	776
No. of Fresh Water Closets	787
No. of Waste Water Closets	Nil

#### Conversions:-

No. of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets	28
No. of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets during last five years 1934-1938	85
No. of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets	Nil
No. of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets during last five years 1934-1938	Nil
No. of Privy Closets to Pail Closets	Nil
No. of Privy Closets to Pail Closets during five years 1934-1938	Nil

Public Cleansing - There is no alteration in the arrangements under this head, the covered horse drawn cart introduced two years ago answering well the purpose.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area - vide Sanitary Inspector's Report. Shops. The Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and

temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences etc., are administered by the County Council. The Sanitary Inspector visits all premises included within the meanings of the Acts and reports to the County Council.

Smoke Abatement. - Local Factory Chimneys are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector during his routine patrol of the district. On two occasions he reports finding chimneys emitting an excessive amount of black smoke. On ascertaining and advising the people concerned the matter was quickly remedied.

Swimming Baths and Pools. - There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. - No houses were found infested, and disinfection was not necessary. When it has been, it has been carried out by the Local Authority using formaldehyde gas.

Schools:- The two schools in the district are old and hardly comply with modern requirements. Nevertheless they should be quite sufficient for the present needs since they answered for much greater numbers of children 25 years ago without serious detriment. and it is even possible that modern requirements may eventually have to be modified to less extravagant standards in this direction. Infectious disease has not been prevalent among the children attending. The water supply is satisfactory.

### SECTION D.

Housing. - The commencement of war brought both public and private building to a sudden end, but during the preceding nine months of the year, 37 houses were completed in the district, 12 by the council and 25 by other bodies or persons. So ends a decade of improvement in housing and social welfare without parallel before. In this locality almost 100 houses of the worst slum types have been demolished with appropriate rehousing. Overcrowding too has received attention and though the position in this respect cannot yet be regarded as satisfactory the number of cases is now only one third of the original figure. The most recent census of overcrowded house-



reveals a further reduction from 39 last year to 24. Having regard to the fact that no building has taken place to this end, this is a pleasing achievement. A discriminate use of vacated council houses has been largely responsible, though it must be admitted that other factors are reduction in numbers by marriage of children and more recently the calling up of youths of military age. The completion of the building programme decided upon five years ago would have been effected during the year by the erection of 20 houses anticipated to cope with the overcrowding situation. This will now have to remain in abeyance to more propitious times.

#### SECTION E.

##### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.— There are 35 Cowkeepers (including dairy farms) and 11 Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers) on the register and 62 inspections have been made during the year. The premises are generally satisfactory. No samples of milk were taken for examination apart from those, as requested by the County Council, from the milk supplied to the schools. One licence only under the milk (Special Designations) Order has been issued, this being in respect of the retail distribution of pasteurised milk. There are no production or bottling plants within the area.

(b) Meat and Other Foods. — There are no slaughter-houses within the district.

All shops stall, and vehicles and places where food is prepared have been inspected, but no cause for complaint has been apparent and no infectious disease has been reported in connection with persons dealing with such food.

The inspection of locally slaughtered animals is the duty of the Sanitary Inspector who includes in his report an account of such inspections.

#### SECTION F.

##### Prevalence of, and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

1. Diphtheria was the most frequent of the notifiable infectious diseases, occurring in epidemic form among children in Greenfield Orphanage in January, and in the subsequent summer months in sporadic outbursts in surrounding parts of the district. Of the nine cases notified, eight occurred in Billinge Chapel End, 4 being children at Greenfield, whilst only one occurred in any other part of the district.

A census of parents of infants willing to have their children immunised against diphtheria was undertaken preparatory to the introductions of a scheme. The results were disappointing, 15 provisionally accepting in a total of 116, and further consideration was suspended at the outbreak of war. Immunising serum is available to private practitioners on application, but none were asked for during the year. Diphtheria antitoxin is also provided for use at the discretion of practitioners in actual or suspected cases.

The six cases of Puerperal Pyrexia included in the subjoined table were all notifications from Billinge Hospital where a large and growing maternity service has developed. All six were residents of other districts, and therefore not correctly inclusive in local statistics though notified to me.

Apart from the notifications enumerated above infectious disease, was infrequent in the district during the year and generally sporadic and mild in character.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), During the year 1939.

Notifiable Diseases.	Total cases all ages	Under 1	Total Cases notified												Total cases removed to hospital from district	Hospital Death in hospital of persons belonging to district
			Age periods -Years													
			1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	65 & over		
	(a)														(b)	(c)
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria (including membranous croup).	9	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Enteric fever including paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles excluding German measles.	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	22	-	-	2	1	1	7	2	-	5	2	1	1	-	-	7

2. Cancer. - Facilities for the treatment of suitable cases of cancer by radium are available by reference through the voluntary hospitals at the Christie Institute, Manchester. One such case, dying recently, derived temporary benefit and extension of life for two or three years by recourse to these measures. Only 3 deaths occurred from Cancer during the year, corresponding to a rate of 0.52 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. This is a further decrease on the previous years low figure of 0.69 and well below half 1.36 - the mean rate for the five years 1934-1938. The age sex and site distribution is appended.

Cancer of the Respiratory System { Bronchus F 42 years.  
 { unspecified respiratory organ M 65 years.

Cancer of the Uterus - unspecified - F 66 years.

3. Tuberculosis. - No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis). The notification of tuberculosis in the area is efficient, there being no instance of a non notified tuberculosis death.

New cases and mortality during 1939.

Death rate from tuberculosis of the respiratory system during  
1939 - 0.52 per 1000.

Death rate from tuberculosis of the respiratory system during  
1938 - 0.34 per 1000.

Mean death rate of five years 1934-1938 - 0.47 per 1000.

Age Periods Years	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
35	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
	0	2	0	6		2	0	0
Totals	2		6		3		0	

There were no offences under the Factory Act, 1937 during the year under review. The Sanitary Inspector working in liason with H.M. Inspector of Factories, maintains effective supervision of local factories and workshops from the public health aspect.

The following is the list of factories and workshops in the district.

Factories.

Clogger & Boot repairers	2.
Collieries	5.
Brick Works	1.
Stone Quarries	2.
Bakeries	1.
Joineries	1.

Workshops.

Bakeries	1.
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Factories and Workshops in work in the district at present.

Clough, Leonard.	Clogger & Boot repairer.
Bispham Hall.	Brickworks.
Blackleyhurst	Colliery.
Billinge Hall.	Quarry.
Crookhurst.	Quarry.
E.O. Gaskell.	Bakery.
J. Rigby Bros.	Colliery (Bank Colliery).
J. Rigby.	Clogger & Boot Repairer.
Wm. Gaskell.	Joinery.
Windy Arbour.	Colliery.
Billinge Lane.	Quarries.
Baxter Pit.	Colliery.
<u>Workshop.</u>	
R. Grundy.	Bakery.



## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1939.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith my seventeenth Annual report for your consideration.

### NUISANCES.

The number of Nuisances under the Public Health Acts investigated during the year totalled 94, made up as follows:-

Structural defects, 72. Drainage defects, 12, and defective sanitary accommodation, 10.

All these nuisances were remedied after informal action had been taken with the persons responsible for the abatement of them.

No formal action was necessary in any case during the year.

### HOUSING ACTS.

57 houses were inspected and recorded under the above Acts, and for nuisances, 90, making a total of premises visited under the Acts, 147.

### SLUM CLEARANCE.

No action in respect to Slum clearance has been taken during the year due to the war.

### W.C. CONVERSIONS.

There have been 28 conversions from Privy ashpits to water carriage during the year. In each case a grant towards cost was made by your Council.

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

There are 46 Cowkeepers and Dairymen registered in your district viz: Producers and retailers 19, wholesale producers, 6. Producers for own use, 10. Retail purveyors, 11.

There is one licence in force to retail Pasteurised milk.

### MEAT REGULATIONS.

Notices of intention to slaughter 37 pigs were received during the year. All carcasses were inspected and found to be clear of disease.

There is no licenced Slaughter-house situate within your district, and all the animals were slaughtered on the premises of the owners.

### PETROLEUM ACTS.

There are 13 Licences in force to stove Petroleum Spirit all in respect of underground tanks, also one licence to keep Carbide of Calcium.

No breach of the regulations was observed during the year. There is also one licence in force to slaughter animals. There are two Bakehouses situate within your district, both of which have been frequently visited during the year, and found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Factory chimneys are under observation during the routine patrol of your district.

One complaint of excessive smoke was received, and two observations of one hour's duration. Each were carried out.

The owner of the premises and the fireman were interviewed, and advice and warning issued.



INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

7 cases of Infectious disease were removed to Ashton-in-Makerfield Infectious Disease Hospital during the year.

The premises and bedding were disinfected by the staff at the hospital in addition disinfection of premises were carried out on 5 occasions by your Council's workmen.

There are no underground or cellar dwellings, common Lodging-houses, or offensive trades situate within your district.

